Council of Principal Investigators Meeting

Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost and Dean
Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional School
12/8/2021

Overview

Graduate and Professional School Updates
DEI-Related Resources PIs Might Tap Into
International Student Questions
Vision, Mission and Values

Vision
Be a globally-recognized leader in student-centered graduate and professional education at the forefront of innovation, diversity, and excellence.

Mission
The Graduate and Professional School collaborates with graduate faculty, academic leaders and staff throughout the University to advance academic excellence, champion equity, and support student success.

Values
- **Innovative excellence**: Enable transformative scholarship, research, and education that improves Texas, the nation and the world
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion**: Value people’s unique identities and backgrounds, foster a learning environment where all can thrive, and strengthen a sense of belonging for all students.
- **Student centeredness**: Promote student health, well-being, and success in all we do.
- **Collaborative community**: Work collectively with all graduate faculty, staff, programs, schools, and offices to achieve common goals.

Graduate and Professional School

Strategic Priorities

- **Attract Exceptional, Diverse Graduate and Professional Students**
- **Ensure Student Wellbeing and Meaningful Experiences**
- **Foster Outstanding Graduate Programs throughout the University**
- **Enrich a Graduate and Professional School Culture of Continuous Improvement and Innovation**
Goals of Engagement with Graduate Directors Network

- Regular, two-way communication with the Graduate School
- Sharing of local and national best practices
- Foster local network of Graduate Directors
- Professional development and support for new Graduate Directors
- Met October and November 2021

Technology Enhancements

- DocuSign
- Slate CRM
Strategic Marketing and Brand Awareness

Excellence is an Aggie standard. Earn your graduate degree, gain hands-on industry experience and make an impact on the world.

New Website

Graduate and Professional School

Graduate and Professional School
Graduate Resources and Development for Aggies is a collaborative effort of:
- Career Center
- Center for Teaching Excellence
- International Student Services
- Money Education Center
- Graduate and Professional School
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- University Libraries
- University Writing Center
- Graduate and Professional Student Government

Doctoral Student Profile and Feedback System

**Students:** Build their profile in one, easy to manage platform for a variety of applications, including CV generation

**Faculty:** Access a comprehensive profile of students to enable efficient review and better feedback

**Administrators:** Customize data collection for reporting and program enhancement

Uses Interfolio F180 and RPT functions

doctoralprofile@tamu.edu
Graduate Mentoring

Graduate and Professional School

gradmentoring@tamu.edu

Graduate and Professional School

Data Collection and Analysis

NEW Master’s Alumni Data

Doctoral Students Time-to-Degree

Median Time-to-Degree in Years by Graduating Year


Academic Analytics -- Doctoral and Master’s Alumni Placement Data

Coalition of Next Generation Life Sciences Dashboards

Graduate and Professional School
Graduate and Professional Student Dashboards

Graduate Enrollment Demographics

Graduate Completion Rates

DEI-Related Resources
Fellowships and Programs

Dr. Dionel Avilés ’53 and Dr. James Johnson ‘67 Fellowship Program
Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grant
Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Fellowship
Early Graduate Admissions Program

Recruitment

National Conferences
Regional Conferences and Institutional Partnerships
Memberships and Name Exchanges
University-Wide Collaborations

Graduate Mentoring Academy
Graduate Student Campus Climate Survey
Professional Development Opportunities
Life Science Recruiting Symposium
Student Equity Experiences (SEE) Coordinator
[New Position]

Graduate and Professional School

International graduate student applications and enrollment, fall 2019, 2020 and 2021
International Graduate Students from China
Application & New Enrollment

Graduate and Professional School

Current Int’l Regulations and Potential Impact on Chinese Graduate Students (current and future)

- Waning interest from Chinese students is a result of U.S. visa restrictions on Chinese students, an increase in anti-Asian racism in the U.S. amid the pandemic, and rising tensions between the U.S. and China
- China Initiative –
  - Led by the DOJ National Security Division (NSD)
  - “In addition to identifying and prosecuting those engaged in trade secret theft, hacking, and economic espionage, the Initiative focuses on protecting our critical infrastructure against external threats through foreign direct investment and supply chain compromises, as well as combatting covert efforts to influence the American public and policymakers without proper transparency.”
- National decrease in Chinese graduate student enrollment
- Actions
  - Developing and promoting support services, welcoming environment, interculture celebrations, and community for international graduate students
  - Diversify pool of international graduate students

Visa

- Appointments limited or no appointments at some US Embassies and Consulates in countries experiencing high infection rates

I20

- ISS -- 15 business day turnaround
DEI-RELATED RESOURCES

Dr. Dionel Avilés ’53 and Dr. James Johnson ’67 Fellowship Program
https://grad.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities/Aviles-Johnson-Fellowship-Program

The Dr. Dionel Avilés ’53 and Dr. James Johnson ’67 Fellowship Program seeks to increase diversity in the graduate and professional student population at Texas A&M and support the development of high achieving scholars who show promise of distinguished careers for the benefit of all students. The deadlines for submitting Avilés-Johnson Fellowship nominations are 5 p.m. CDT, February 1, 2022 (doctoral nominations* only) and March 1, 2022 (master’s and 2nd round of doctoral nominations*).

Eligibility
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Superior academic record
- Meet one or more of the following:
  - belong to gender, racial or ethnic groups historically under-represented;
  - have attended a MSI for at least 2 years of UG degree or have UG conferred degree from MSI;
  - disability;
  - veteran; or
  - come from a disadvantaged background

*Departments/Interdisciplinary Degree Programs must identify which round they wish to submit Doctoral nominations by Monday, January 24, 2022 at: https://tx.ag/AvilesJohnson. Doctoral nominations may not be submitted to both rounds.

Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grant
https://grad.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities/Pathways-to-the-Doctorate-Grants

The Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grants supports mutually beneficial collaborations that will increase the application, acceptance, and timely graduation of students from underrepresented populations in Texas A&M University graduate and professional programs. These efforts seek to address a report from the Presidential Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion finding that Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages are underrepresented when compared to the state’s demographics. Three proposals were funded in the first round. Subsequent rounds will be available in January of each year through 2024.

Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Fellowship
https://grad.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities/Pathways-to-the-Doctorate-Grants

The Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowships provide collaboratively funded support for four years of doctoral study at Texas A&M. Fellowships are intended to promote mutually beneficial relationships between faculty, departments, and programs at Texas A&M and other institutions. These relationships should foster meaningful collaborative partnerships that create a sustainable pipeline for students from targeted underrepresented populations to enter doctoral programs at our institution while providing adequate
support to students to ensure retention, timely graduation, and career success. More information, and a full RFP, can be found at here. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2022.

---

**Early Graduate Admissions Program**

https://grad.tamu.edu/PROSPECTIVE-STUDENTS/Admissions/Early-Graduate-Admissions-Program

Early Graduate Admissions (EGA) is open only to summer undergraduate research students who are participating in a structured research group (REU, USRG, etc.) at Texas A&M University and will graduate in May 2023. Students who apply will know if they have been admitted to the University in September 2022. The program provides an expedited review process for participating departments and interdisciplinary programs.

---

**RECRUITMENT**

Diversity equity, and inclusion is a key value of the Graduate and Professional School. As such, there are a number of recruitment efforts that we engage in to increase the number of high-quality diverse graduate students that matriculate into Texas A&M University. In addition to the efforts noted below, the Graduate and Professional School allocates $1 million to the colleges, for recruitment efforts, including college-wide or other efforts to bring students to campus. For those interested in connecting to these efforts, please let us know.

**National Conferences**

- Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/ Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABCRMS)
- California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education
- National GEM Consortium
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

**Regional Conferences & Institutional Partnerships**

- Texas Swing
  - The Texas Swing calendar is a collaborative effort between the TACRAO Graduate and Professional School committee and TxGAP to help coordinate and organize information about graduate and professional school recruiting activities in Texas and New Mexico.
- Texas National McNair Research Conference
- Florida A&M University (FAMU) Feeder Program
- Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU)
  - The most recent initiative under the MOA is a course exchange agreement. This initiative will allow a student at PVAMU or TAMU to take a graduate course at the other institution. This effort will expand options for students and allow our institutions to capitalize on strengths. Piloted in fall 2021, the initiative is currently under development to determine which courses will be offered and advertised to students. It is anticipated that the initiative will be approved sometime in spring 2022 with offerings by fall 2022.
  - The Joint PVAMU-TAMU Professional Development Series is a collaboration within the Texas A&M University System, between the Graduate and Professional School at Texas A&M University – College Station and the Office of Graduate Studies at Prairie View A&M
University, in an effort to expand the opportunities available to our graduate and professional students and strengthen our ties between universities.

Memberships and Name servs

- National Name Exchange (NNE)
  - A consortium of 55 nationally known universities which annually collect and exchange the names of their talented and underrepresented ethnic minority students in an effort to increase the enrollment of traditionally underrepresented peoples in graduate education.

- TRIO McNair Scholars Directory
  - Provides graduate schools with access to TRIO McNair Scholars who have expressed an interest in pursuing graduate studies and contains records of recent graduates, seniors, and rising seniors. The TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is the single largest federal effort aimed at preparing low-income, first-generation in college and minority students to pursue graduate studies.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COLLABORATIONS

Mentoring Academy
https://grad.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students/Graduate-Student-Mentoring

The Graduate and Professional School recognizes that there are many drivers and influences on graduate and professional students and their education. Our goal is to ensure that every student is well-supported throughout their graduate education journey. We have created the Graduate Mentoring Academy to support excellence in graduate and professional students through workshops, training, resources, and tools for students, faculty, and staff who are engaged in all aspects of graduate and professional education.

Graduate Student Campus Climate Survey
https://grad.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students/Campus-Climate-Survey

The Graduate and Professional School regularly facilitates an assessment of the graduate student campus climate, based on the directives of the Texas A&M University Diversity Plan (Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, 2009) and goals identified in Vision 2020: Creating a Culture of Excellence (Vision 2020). The University Diversity Plan comprises three elements: accountability, climate, and equity.

Professional Development Opportunities
https://grad.tamu.edu/Buttons/Professional-Development-Opportunities#

The Graduate and Professional School strives to promote and expand opportunities for graduate students to engage in professional development activities that will prepare them for their future careers- whether in academia, industry, government, non-profit organizations or elsewhere. These activities help graduate students develop professional skills to complement the discipline specific knowledge gained in their degree program. The Graduate and Professional School has identified seven key skill areas for graduate student professional development to guide programming and resources.

Life Science Recruiting Symposium
The Life Sciences Recruiting Symposium brings 9 TAMU life sciences departments and programs together where prospective graduate students can meet faculty, staff, current students, and visit the TAMU campus. In addition, current students have the opportunity to share their research during a poster session. The 2022 Life Sciences Symposium will take place on February 11-12, 2022 at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center and Kyle Field.

**Student Equity Experiences (SEE) Coordinator [NEW POSITION]**
The Graduate and Professional School is seeking a Student Equity Experiences (SEE) Coordinator to lead our efforts to be an exemplar of strengthening diversity, uplifting equity, and honoring inclusion. This position will be responsible for new and existing activities, programs, and services with the goal of fostering inclusiveness and belonging for individuals from communities historically excluded and marginalized.

For additional information or details on how to connect, please contact Dr. Shannon D. Walton at shannon@tamu.edu.
Call for Faculty Judges

17th Annual Texas A&M University System Pathways Student Research Symposium

Save the Date!
Noon Thursday, March 3rd – Noon Friday, March 4th, 2022
College Station, TX
Kyle Field and Memorial Student Center

The 2022 Pathways Student Research Symposium is approaching fast, and the Grad School would like to recruit your help to serve as a judge. The event will take place on Thursday, March 3rd and Friday, March 4th, 2022, on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Pathways Student Research Symposium is open to all Texas A&M University System students with separate categories for undergraduate, masters, and doctoral level research. The symposium provides students the opportunity to showcase their research efforts, network with faculty, gain exposure to graduate and post-graduate opportunities, and form lasting collaborative relationships for future research. The event rotates annually among the different Texas A&M University System institutions. This year, the flagship in College Station gets to showcase our campus and student research.

Please consider serving as judges for undergraduate, master’s and doctoral posters, oral presentations, and five-minute research elevator pitches for the symposium.

In addition to supporting student research, participating as a judge represents an opportunity for networking with faculty and students from Texas A&M and all 10 other Texas A&M System Universities. Another benefit of serving as a judge is that it gives you the opportunity to recruit undergraduate and master’s students to your master’s and doctoral programs or to build relationships with students whom you have extended admissions offers who may not have finalized their grad school plans.

Please save the dates on your calendar and join us as a judge for this exciting event to connect students, faculty, and staff and strengthen the Texas A&M University System research community. The judging registration will open in January 2022. Look for an announcement in early January.

Thanks for your support of this important Texas A&M University Systems event.